

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MONROV 00635 262100Z

ACTION AF-04

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FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3415

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 0635

STADIS//////////

LIMDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFELLE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OUA LI

SUBJECT: GOL CONCERNS RE POSSIBLE MILITARY COMMITMENT TO OAU

1. FONMIN DENNIS AND ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL JOHNSON HAVE DEPARTED TODAY FOR UPCOMING OAU LIBERATION AND DEFENSE COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN LUSAKA.
2. GOL MINISTER OF DEFENSE GREAVES HAD INFORMAL DISCUSSION THIS MORNING WITH HEAD OF OUR MILITARY MISSION, COLONEL HUNTER, ON IMPLICATIONS TO LIBERIA OF RECENT IAN SMITH DECISION REJECTING BRITISH PROPOSALS ON MAJORITY RULE IN RHODESIA.
3. GREAVES SAID THAT HE HAD MET WITH PRESIDENT TOLBERT THIS A.M. (26 JAN) AND THAT PRESIDENT SAID "HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN AGAINST AFRICANS FIGHTING AFRICANS BUT SMITH DECISION PUTS LIBERIA IN DIFFICULT SITUATION."

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4. TOLBERT APPARENTLY QUERIED GREAVES ON PARAMETERS OF MILITARY COMMITMENT GOL MIGHT HAVE TO MAKE IF REQUESTED TO DO SO DURING LUSAKA MEETINGS.
5. GREAVES ASKED COL. HUNTER IF GOL WERE TO MAKE MILITARY COMMITMENT WOULD USG BE "NEUTRAL, ACTIVELY SUPPORTIVE, OR INCLINED WITHDRAW MILITARY SUPPORT TO LIBERIA." HUNTER

AVOIDED RESPONDING BUT HIS ASSESSMENT TO ME WAS THAT THE GOL COULD MAKE TOKEN TROOP COMMITMENT OF A COMPANY, PERHAPS GOING UP TO A LIGHT INFANTRY BATTALION. HE DOES NOT BELIEVE GOL COULD GO BEYOND THIS COMMITMENT IN VIEW OF ITS OWN LIMITED RESOURCES.

6. COMMENT: GREAVES/HUNTER CONVERSATION, WHILE INFORMAL, CLEARLY INDICATES GOL VIEWS THAT RHODESIAN SITUATION LIKELY TO HEAT UP AND THAT THEY MAY BE FORCED MAKE SOME SORT OF SYMBOLIC CONTRIBUTION. IT IS ALSO LIKELY THAT THIS MAY BE AN ISSUE RAISED WITH ME AND I WOULD WELCOME ANY GUIDANCE, ALBEIT TENTATIVE, WHICH YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO OFFER.
CARTER

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